(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government so far to fix the commission of petrol dealer as per the percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1.4.02, the Government is no longer fixing the dealers' commission on petrol and diesel, which is now being fixed by the oil companies. Some elements of the commission depend upon the prices of petrol and diesel.

The oil companies have last revised the dealers' commission effective 1.11.02. As per this revision, the dealers' commission on petrol was increased from Rs. 613/KL to Rs. 639/KL and on diesel from Rs. 365/KL to Rs. 385/KL.

Remedy for oil spills at sea

734. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has developed a product, Oilzapper, as an environment friendly remedy for oil spills at sea;

(b) whether it is a fact that Oilzapper was developed by the Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) in a project supported by the Department of Bio-Technology (DBT); and

(c) if so, the details of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Oilzapper is carrier based (powdered corncob) efficient crude oil and oily sludge degrading bacterial consortia which can degrade petroleum sludge and treat crude oil spills. Oilzapper can degrade toxic hydrocarbons present in petroleum sludge and crude oil to carbon-di-oxide and water and is an environment friendly technology. Shelf life of oilzapper is 3 months at ambient temperature. Oilzapper can be packed in polybags and easily transported to the sites of refinery for treatment of petroleum sludge (waste after refining of crude oil) or accidental crude oil spill sites for its treatment. The technology has been transferred to Sriram Biotech

Limited, Hyderabad and Bharat Petrochemicals Limited, Mumbai for commercial production.

New tourism projects

735. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of projects approved and implemented for the development of infrastructure in the field of tourism during the last three years;

(b) the funds sanctioned for each of the projects so far;

(c) the details of achievements made so far in this regard; and

(d) the new tourism project propose to be sanctioned during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b)The Department ofTourism, Government of India has sanctioned 967 projects amounting to Rs. 239.05 crores to the State Governments/ UT Administrations during last three years *i.e.* 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 for development and promotion of tourism in the country.

(c) Out of 967 projects, 282 projects have been completed.

(d) The Department of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 71.37 crores for new projects and development of infrastructure facilities and promotion of tourism during the year 2002-03.

Tourism potential in the country

736. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as per expert estimates every one million additional foreign visitors would give India an additional revenue of Rs. 4,300 crores and that every additional investment of Rs. 1 million has a potential to generate 47.5 jobs; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to launch an intensive tourism promotion programme, fixing target, monitoring their periodic